

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /088 W
----- 020503

R 170906Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2183

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, TH, VS

SUBJ: NEW THAI FISHING BOAT INCIDENT OFF VIETNAMESE COAST

1. THAI PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN RECENT DAYS TO VIETNAMESE ATTACK ON TWO THAI FISHING BOATS PURPORTEDLY TRAWLING SEVENTEEN MILES OFF VIETNAMESE COAST BETWEEN ISLANDS OF POULO WAI AND POULO PANJANG AUG 12. IF FIRST-HAND REPORTS OF SURVIVORS ARE ACCURATE, ATTACK OF VIETNAMESE NAVAL PATROL BOAT COMMENCED WITH BURSTS OF FIRE DIRECTLY AT BOATS, WITHOUT WARNING. ONE CREWMAN WHO HAD BEEN AMONG THOSE RELEASED THREE WEEKS PREVIOUSLY FROM VIETNAMESE PRISON CAMP AND HAD LEARNED SOME OF THE LANGUAGE SAID VIETNAMESE WERE YELLING TO THAI IN VIETNAMESE TO GIVE UP OR EVERYONE WOULD BE KILLED. OF TOTAL OF 45 THAI ON BOARD, ONLY TEN ESCAPED TO RETURN HOME. TWO OTHERS WERE CONFIRMED DEAD, AND THE REMAINDER ARE PROBABLY TAKEN PRISONER.

2. OCCURRING NOT EVEN A WEEK AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI RETURNED FROM HANOI, HARSHNESS OF VIETNAMESE ACTION CAME AS SURPRISE. IN PAST, VIETNAMESE WOULD SEARCH
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VESSELS RATHER THAN OPEN FIRE. HOWEVER, SRV OFFICIALS

DID MAKE IT CLEAR TO THAI DELEGATION IN HANOI THAT ILLEGAL
ENTRYB INTO VIETNAMESE WATERS OF THE INDEPENDENT-MINDED THAI
FIRSHERMEN HAD TO CEASE.
THIS ATTACK MAY SIGNAL VIETNAMESE INPATIENCE OF LOCAL VIETNAMESE
IN PARTICULAR OVER CONTINUED THAI ENCROACHMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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